

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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HERSETH SUPPORTS ENERGY BILL WITH HISTORIC RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD

Works to Increase RFS Beyond 5 Billion Gallon Level As Bill Moves Through Congress

April 21, 2005, Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth today voted in favor of the House Energy Bill, which includes what would be the first-ever Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). The RFS provides for a mandated use of 5 billion gallons of renewable motor vehicle fuels, like ethanol and biodiesel, by 2012.

Herseth said, “Today is a good day for ethanol, and a good day for South Dakota. This Renewable Fuels Standard would be the first ever, and if enacted, it will increase the production of ethanol, a clean, renewable source of energy that creates jobs in rural America and reduces our dependence on foreign oil.”

Herseth continued, “While I am proud to vote in favor of an historic Renewable Fuels Standard, I remain hopeful that we can do even better as this bill works its way through Congress.” Herseth believes that the 5 billion gallon RFS inadequately reflects expected production of the renewable fuels industry, and she will work to increase the mandate in the Senate and conference report of the bill.

Nationwide, when we complete all of the ethanol plant projects that are currently under construction, we will have the capacity to produce almost 4.4 billion gallons of ethanol in the U.S. each year. Herseth added, “While 5 billion gallons is good first step, it doesn’t take us all that far beyond current capacity. But I’m hopeful that the RFS passed today will allow us to raise that level in the weeks to come.”

Last week, Herseth introduced the Fuels Security Act of 2005, a bipartisan bill to create a renewable fuels standard increasing the use of renewable fuels to 8 billion gallons by 2012. Throughout South Dakota and the Great Plains region, Democrats and Republicans are united in their support for ethanol. In fact, an 8 billion gallon RFS has the support of 33 of the nation’s 50 Governors.

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